



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 13 December 1966



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DAILY BRIEF
13 DECEMBER 1966

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1. Soviet Union

We expect that the Soviets will try several Mars probes over the next two months. A favorable launch period extends from about now through early February, with the choicest dates falling in January.

2. Soviet Union

The Soviet "legislature"--the Supreme Soviet--will open one of its two- or three-day semiannual sessions on Thursday. The economic plan and budget for next year will be the main order of business.

This year the country's economic performance has been mixed. Excellent results in agriculture have been offset by continued mediocre output in industry.

The Soviets brought in a record grain crop and impressive harvests of other crops, and achieved generally good results in the livestock sector. In industry, however, investment showed the lowest increases since the war and construction was actually down from last year.

3. Berlin

There was a remark in the East Berlin press today that West Berlin must recognize East Germany as the price for a holiday pass agreement. We doubt, however, that this will rule out some arrangement for visits this Christmas.

The point here is that the East Germans want to avoid being blamed for preventing the popular visits. Thus they may back down and approve an agreement, at the last minute, or merely sanction the visits without signing a formal piece of paper.

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4. Rhodesia

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5. Philippines

The Marcos government is reassessing its nonrecognition policy toward Moscow. The President continues to say publicly that he opposes recognition, but he may well shift his course in order to further his ambitions as an "honest broker" on Vietnam.

6. Venezuela

President Leoni has suspended constitutional guarantees following the attempted assassination by terrorists of his army chief of staff this morning. The President's move will help appease the military, who have been pressing for a stronger stand against guerrilla terrorism, but it is too early to know whether this will be enough to stem the alarming rise in this kind of activity.

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